

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
703 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-3102

0134 '99 JUL 16 A9:09

Dear Senator Bingaman:

I have recently been made aware of a frightening development at the Food and Drug Administration. Under pressure from food manufacturers and supporters of the nuclear industry, the FDA is considering a rule that would remove labeling requirements for foods treated with radiation. The public only has until May 18 to voice its objections to this rule. Currently, any food treated with radiation during the production process is labeled with a symbol known as a radura (the international symbol for irradiated foods) and either a statement saying "treated with radiation" or "treated by irradiation." The rule before the FDA would allow manufacturers to sell any and all irradiated foods to the consumer with nary a mention of the use of radiation during processing. This proposed action is bad for consumers.

Despite the fact that the FDA has determined that radiation is safe for food, many consumers, including myself, do not want to eat foods treated with radiation. Radiation changes the texture, taste, nutritional value, and chemical composition of foods. Radiation creates a heretofore unseen class of unique radiolytic products that have never been tested for their possible carcinogenic effects on humans. These are things that I do not want to put into my body.

This is a clear-cut issue of a consumer being able to know what is in their food. We know what the fat, protein, carbohydrate, and vitamin content is in our food, why can we not know whether our food has been treated with radiation emanating from some of the most deadly substances known to man? We as consumers have always relied on the radura symbol and explanatory statement to inform us that food has been irradiated so that we maintain the right of the consumer to make a choice in this matter. I implore you, as a constituent and a friend, to contact the FDA about this issue and ask them why your constituents should now be kept in the dark about whether their food has been irradiated and why the comment period has been so short.

Sincerely,

John Pastkiewicz

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Retired from Los Alamos Lab.
C3872

I have had medical problems
for eight years until Dr. Joseph
Hill prescribed natural estradiol
with micronized progesterone which
is specially compounded at College
Pharmacy. I am finally well,
and need to continue to take my
medication. I object to the
definition of "inordinate amount" in
the memorandum of understanding.
I do not want restriction of availability
of compounded medications.

ms. Pamela Michalak

Mrs. Pamela Michalak
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Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Docket No 98-N-1265
Food & Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20857

